## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A <u>continuous</u> process for preparing a propargyl alcohol of the formula I

in which  $R^1$  is a  $C_{1-30}$ -alkyl,  $C_{3-8}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_{2-20}$ -alkoxyalkyl,  $C_{6-14}$ -aryl,  $C_{7-20}$ -alkoxyaryl,  $C_{7-20}$ -aralkyl,  $C_{7-20}$ -alkylaryl radical or H branched on the  $\alpha$ -carbon atom, which comprises reacting a corresponding aldehyde of the formula  $R^1$ -CHO with acetylene in the presence of ammonia and a catalytic amount of an alkali metal hydroxide, alkaline earth metal hydroxide or alkali metal alkoxide in the range from 0.6 to 10 mol% based on the aldehyde used.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at temperatures in the range from 0 to 50°C.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the reaction is carried out at absolute pressures in the range from 1 to 30 bar.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, wherein the aldehyde and the acetylene are used in a molar ratio in the range of aldehyde:acetylene [[=]] of from 1:1 to 1:10.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, wherein the catalytic amount of alkali metal hydroxide, alkaline earth metal

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hydroxide or alkali metal alkoxide is in the range from 1 to 10 mol% based on the aldehyde used.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, wherein  $R^1$  is a  $C_{4-10}$ -alkyl or phenyl radical branched on the  $\alpha$ -carbon atom.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of claims claim 1 to 5, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is n-pentyl or 3-heptyl.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of the preceding claims claim 1, wherein conversion to propargyl alcohol is effected by simultaneously metering a stream comprising acetylene and ammonia, a stream comprising the aldehyde and a stream comprising the alkali metal hydroxide, alkaline earth metal hydroxide or alkali metal alkoxide into a reactor.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of the preceding claims  $\frac{1}{2}$ , wherein the alkoxide is a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -alkoxide.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of the preceding elaims claim 1, wherein the alkali metal is sodium or potassium.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of the preceding elaims claim 1, wherein the alkaline earth metal is magnesium or calcium.

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Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process according to any of the preceding

elaims claim 1, wherein the alkali metal alkoxide or metal hydroxide is dissolved or

suspended in an alcohol.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 12, wherein the

alkali metal alkoxide is dissolved or suspended in the alcohol which that corresponds to the

alkoxide by protonation.

Claims 14-18 (Canceled).

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